Initiatives for Mine Workers

720. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by Government to improve the conditions of mine workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) All the statutory provisions as per the Mines Act, 1952 and Mines Rules, 1955 regarding welfare of workers are complied with in the mines of Public Sector Undertakings, namely National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) and Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. Due attention is being paid to the welfare of the workers and all efforts are being made to further improve the living conditions. The PSUs are providing Housing, Water Supply, Health, Education for the employees and their wards alongwith Cooperative Stores and Credit Societies and transport facilities at a subsidised rate.

The initiatives and welfare of workers is the subject matter of Ministry of Labour & Employment as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules, 1961). It has been reported by the Ministry of Labour & Employment that some welfare schemes have been evolved by them to extend welfare facilities to certain non-coal mine workers and their family members in the spheres of Health, Education, Housing, recreation and Water Supply under the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund, Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

Affairs of NALCO

721. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has been operating without a Board of Directors over the past few months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country's largest aluminium company has been functioning with only one functional Director under an acting Chairman over the past few months; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing a full Board of Directors in NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There are six functional Directors in the Board of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO). Only one post that of Director (Production) is vacant *w.e.f.* 1.9.2002.

Exploration of Mineral Deposits in Rajasthan

†722. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey is being conducted to explore the availability of mineral deposits like gold, silver and diamond in some parts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where this survey is being conducted by Government apart from Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Survey for gold and silver are being conducted by Geological Survey of India (GSI). As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) no exploration for diamond was carried out recently in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) GSI has taken up 15 investigations in the State of Rajasthan from 2001-02 to 2004-05. Currently for the field season 2004-05 three investigations for gold are being carried out in Khankriya-Gara Block, Pathara Block and Delwara West Block in Banswara District.

During the field season 2003-04 investigation for silver has been carried out by GSI in Rajpura-Dariba Bethumbi and Jashma-Bhupalsagar-Bhinder Belts, Rajasmand district, Rajasthan.

(c) The survey for gold and diamond was carried out by GSI, Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGMs) and Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML) in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattishgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.